COMPOSITIONS INVOLVING M-RIP, METHODS FOR SCREENING ANTI-HYPERTENSIVE AGENTS, AND USES THEREOF

Abstract of the Disclosure

5   The present invention relates to screening methods that make use of Myosin Phosphatase-Rho interacting Protein (M-RIP) for the identification of novel therapeutics for hypertension and hypertensive conditions. Also disclosed are methods for treating or preventing hypertension or hypertensive conditions by administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an agent that

10   reduces the level or activity of M-RIP. According to this invention, the agent decreases contractile and increases relaxant effects of smooth muscle cells, ultimately decreasing the systemic blood pressure of a mammal. For example, the agent may reduce binding of M-RIP to myosin phosphatase, RhoA, or both.

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